[10th August 1956

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY: The Hon. Minister may be aware that from time immemorial the people residing in villages have been fishing from their own tanks and also lakes irrespective of considerations like caste, colour or creed. But these people have been deprived of their right of fishing in their own villages. Will the Government see that at least in the future the rights which they have been enjoying from time immemorial are restored so that they may not be prevented from fishing in their own tanks and lakes? I would also like to know whether there is any such community called inland fishermen community?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: As I have already pointed out, there are two sides to the question. The Government have been examining all aspects of the question and they would take decisions which would be in the best interests of the people and the fishermen who labour.

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether preference will be given to Harijans also as in the case of fishermen if they organize co-operative societies?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Sir, I have already stated the preference that should be shown to co-operative societies. We do not consider fishermen a community by birth as such. All those who are engaged in catching fish, whatever be the community to which they belong, will be given due consideration.

SRI A. RATNAM: May I know from the Hon. Minister, what are the demands and sugestions made by inland fishermen at their conference held recently at Rajaji Hall?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I am sorry, I do not have that information with me just now.

Veterinary dispensaries

* 39 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state when the Veterinary dispensary at Gingee will be converted into a hospital?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: There is only a minor Veterinary dispensary at Gingee and there is no proposal to convert it into a Veterinary hospital at present.

* 40 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state how many Veterinary dispensaries and touring billets have no Veterinary Assistant Surgeons at present in the whole State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: There are 13 Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries, 29 Minor Veterinary dispensaries and 15 Touring Billets which are vacant at present for want of qualified Veterinary Assistant Surgeons.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS